

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please amend the following claims as follows wherein underlining indicates insertions and bracketing "[]" indicates deletions.

Thank you.

1. (twice amended) An improved desktop operated computer control device of the type having a rotatable ball for pointing control, said control device further of the type including a housing, electronic circuitry within said housing and coupled to communication means for communicating control signals from said electronic circuitry to a computer, a plurality of finger depressible buttons exposed on said housing and interfacing with sensors electrically connected with said electronic circuitry for allowing user selection of control signals communicated to a computer; at least two of said sensors each capable of providing at least three readable states of varied conductance, at least two states of said at least three readable states dependant upon depressive pressure applied to the variable-conductance sensors through depression of an associated button;

wherein the improvement comprises:

said electronic circuitry including means for reading said at least three readable states and for producing a distinct control signal for each state of said at least two states, the distinct control signals are

screen scrolling control signals used to determine scrolling speed rates, whereby a pointer controlled by said control device is not required to be located on a scrolling elevator showing on a monitor.

3. (twice amended) An improved desktop operated computer control device of the type having a rotatable ball for pointing control, said control device further of the type including a housing, electronic circuitry within said housing and coupled to communication means for communicating control signals from said

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electronic circuitry to a computer, a plurality of finger depressible buttons exposed on said housing and interfacing with sensors electrically connected with said electronic circuitry for allowing user selection of control signals communicated to a computer;

wherein the improvements comprise:

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at least two of said sensors are analog sensors each including pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material to provide at least three readable states of varied conductance, said states dependant upon depressive pressure applied to the pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material;

said electronic circuitry including means for reading said at least three readable states and for producing a distinct control signal for each of at least two states of said at least three readable states, whereby said control device outputs the distinct control signal regardless of a pointer position on a display.

5. (twice amended) An improved desktop operated computer control device of the type having a rotatable ball for pointing control on a computer monitor, said control device further of the type including a housing, electrical power source means for powering electronic circuitry, said electronic circuitry located within said housing, said electronic circuitry coupled to communication means for communicating control signals from said electronic circuitry to a computer, a plurality of finger depressible buttons exposed on said housing and interfacing with sensors electrically connected with said electronic circuitry for allowing user selection of control signals communicated to a computer;

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wherein the improvements comprise:

at least two of said sensors are analog sensors including pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material, each said analog sensor structured to provide at least three readable states of varied conductance, said states dependant upon

depressive pressure applied individually to the sensors of said at least two sensors;

said electronic circuitry including means for reading said at least three readable states and for producing scroll control signals representative of each of at least two states of said at least three readable states;

a first sensor of said at least two sensors, said first sensor associated with a first button of said finger depressible buttons, said first button variably depressible to allow applying varied depressive pressure to said first sensor, said first sensor connected to said electronic circuitry, said electronic circuitry for reading said at least three readable states and producing at least two different scroll-up values as said scroll control signals;

a second sensor of said at least two sensors, said second sensor associated with a second button of said finger depressible buttons, said second button variably depressible to allow applying varied depressive pressure to said second sensor, said second sensor connected to said electronic circuitry, said electronic circuitry for reading said at least three readable states and producing at least two different scroll-down values as said scroll control signals, whereby a pointer controlled by said control device is not required to be located on a scrolling elevator showing on a monitor.

12. (twice amended) An improved method of controlling window scrolling of a computer using a desktop operated computer control device of the type having a rotatable ball for pointing control, the control device further of the type including a housing, electrical power source means for powering electronic circuitry, said electronic circuitry located within said housing, said electronic circuitry coupled to communication means for communicating control signals from said electronic circuitry to a computer, a plurality of finger depressible buttons exposed on said housing and interfacing with sensors electrically connected

with said electronic circuitry for allowing user selection of control signals communicated to a computer; said control device further of the type wherein a user depresses an analog scroll control button of said buttons to activate a scroll control signal related to the depressed button, and releases the depressed button to deactivate said scroll control signal;

wherein the improvement comprises:

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depressing, by the user, said analog scroll control button with any user selectable pressure level of a plurality of user selectable pressure levels, the user selectable pressure levels associated with various distinct values of said scroll control signal, whereby the user controls screen scrolling rate by way of selecting the pressure applied to said analog scroll control button, and a pointer controlled by said control device is not required to be located on a scrolling elevator showing on a monitor.

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15. (twice amended) A method of manufacturing an improved desktop operated computer control device of the type having a rotatable ball for pointing control including the known prior art steps of: molding a housing; installing means for receiving a power source; installing electronic circuitry within said housing and connected to said means for receiving said power source; connecting communication means to said electronic circuitry for communicating from said control device to a computer; installing a rotatable ball; connecting to said electronic circuitry means for sensing rotation of said ball for pointing control; installing a plurality of finger depressible buttons positioned for bearing on sensors electrically connected with said electronic circuitry; said electronic circuitry for reading a plurality of said sensors as sensors having only two readable values; and

further including the novel combined steps of:

installing pressure-sensitive variable-conductance analog sensors positioned to be activated by depression of at least some

buttons of said finger depressible buttons, said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance analog sensors structured to provide at least three readable values, said values dependant upon depressive pressure applied to said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance analog sensors;

installing circuitry for reading an immediate value of said at least three readable values of the pressure-sensitive variable-conductance analog sensors, and for communicating data representative of the immediate value from said control device to a computer,

whereby said improved device is manufactured for communicating data representative of the depressive pressure applied to said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance analog sensors regardless of the position of a pointer controlled by said computer control device.

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16. (twice amended) A computer mouse for use with a computer, the computer running network browser software for visiting network addresses, said mouse having:

a housing; and

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at least one user depressible surface exposed on said housing for communicating a first command signal to the computer, said first command signal being dedicated to moving the network browser software backward to a previously visited network address, whereby depression of said user depressible surface causes the network browser software to move backward to a previously visited network address without a requirement of a pointer controlled by said mouse having to be located on a browser software back button.
